Strategic Water Supply Plan Public Meeting #2
Minutes
October 17, 2012
City Council Chambers, City Hall
7:00 P.M.

Attendance

Strategic Water Supply Plan Project Team: John Rehring, Amber Wooten, Srini Sundaramoorthy and Ryan Smith
Councilmembers: Mayor Rosenthal, Castleberry, Gallagher, Griffith, Kovach, Lockett
Staff: Ken Komiske, Chris Mattingly, Charlie Thomas, Gay Webb

Introductions

Mayor Rosenthal welcomed everyone to the second public Strategic Water Supply Plan meeting and acknowledged Councilmembers in attendance. She stated this is an opportunity to gather input from the community on this project.

Mr. Komiske acknowledged Ad-Hoc Committee members in attendance and introduced the Strategic Water Supply Plan project team consisting of Ryan Smith and Srini Sundaramoorthy of Tetra Tech and John Rehring and Amber Wooten of Carollo Engineers.

Presentation

Mr. Rehring thanked Council and the Ad-Hoc committee for guidance in this process. He gave an overview of where we are at in the water supply planning process. The focus of the meeting tonight will be to describe the individual supply options, review how we evaluated them and provide recommendations on which ones we think are most viable and get your feedback on that. Any could technically work, but some are more viable than others.

Mr. Rehring discussed water terminology, per-capita water use, daily peaking factors, projected water use, Phase 1 and 2 of the planning process and described the individual supply options and the screening process. There are three general types of water sources (1) existing supplies (2) new local supplies and (3) regional supplies. The most viable and cost effective supply options will be the building blocks for the water supply portfolios.

Mr. Rehring explained the criteria used for detailed evaluations, using a subset of these, to screen new local and regional water supply options (relative comparison). Based on the results of the preliminary screening, the following sources are recommended for use in the development of water supply portfolios to be evaluated in Phase II of the Strategic Water Supply Plan:

Existing:
- Lake Thunderbird
- Garber-Wellington Aquifer Wells
- Conservation
- Oklahoma City water during peak demands

New Local:
- Groundwater recharge
- Direct non-potable reuse
- Lake Thunderbird augmentation (pending results of Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District study)

Regional
- Bulk treated water from Oklahoma City
- Bulk raw water from Oklahoma City
- New out of basin reservoir (Scissortail or Parker)
- Kaw Lake

Public Discussion and Input

Mr. Rehring asked for feedback on the information presented. The following is a synopsis of questions or comments with the response provided by the consultant or staff:

- Why does raw water from southeast Oklahoma cost more than treated water from Oklahoma City? Mr. Rehring explained when Oklahoma City brings water in from southeast Oklahoma, they use Lake Stanley Draper as their terminal reservoir. If we brought water into Norman, we would need our own terminal storage reservoir. Potentially, we might be able to use Lake Thunderbird. We are waiting for results of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District augmentation study.

- Where would we store water if brought in from other source options? Mr. Rehring answered there are two options. Potentially in Lake Thunderbird, pending the findings of the ongoing Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District Lake Thunderbird augmentation study, or we would need to build a terminal storage reservoir. Typically, sizing transmission infrastructure to convey peak demands is less cost-effective than using local storage. Alternatively, transmission infrastructure (pipelines and pump stations) could be sized to meet peak diversions and demands.

- How do issues with Indian Tribes surrounding the southeast Oklahoma water impact these source options? Mr. Rehring responded the tribes in southeast Oklahoma have asserted claims to water rights but no determination has been made yet. This is reflected in our study through the implementation rating for each source. This source has been significantly studied and is currently in

detailed planning. From a permitting perspective, there are some unknowns that must be considered.

- What is the status of Oklahoma City southeast Oklahoma project? Mr. Rehring replied the initial planning has started, building on the 2009 Central Oklahoma study, but no design or construction has begun.

- What is the current status of Scissortail and Parker reservoirs? Mr. Rehring responded it takes a considerable amount of time to permit and develop a new reservoir. This is why source planning is being done now for 2060. It could take 10 – 20 years to complete a new reservoir.

- Why did groundwater recharge option receive a score of 1 for implementation? Mr. Rehring explained while technology is available for groundwater recharge, it is unproven in Oklahoma. Additionally, permitting procedures are not in place to allow this in Oklahoma, leading to significant uncertainties about the treatment requirements, operational requirements, permitting requirements and costs for this option.

- Why is Lake Thunderbird allowance anticipated to be cut back? Mr. Rehring said it is anticipated that permitted withdrawals will be recalculated based on the firm yield of Thunderbird. The original permits were based on firm yield of Thunderbird plus conjunctive use of some groundwater wells. Existing permits exceed the firm yield of Thunderbird.

- Can we get a bigger allocation of Lake Thunderbird by securing Del City and Midwest City's excess unused allocation? Mr. Komiske answered we are discussing leasing water rights from Del City and Midwest City. It would take federal legislation to reallocate supplies between the cities, and the other cities would not likely support such a move.

- What is the expected life of Lake Thunderbird? Mr. Rehring stated typically, reservoir firm yield includes a 100-year allowance for sedimentation.

- When you are talking about potential water supply sources from southeast Oklahoma, are you just talking about Sardis or are you talking abut multiple basins? Mr. Rehring said the project would build on the existing system that is already there, essentially paralleling the pipeline from McGee Creek and the Atoka Reservoir. Oklahoma City has applied for additional water rights in the Kiamichi River basin of which Sardis is a tributary to that river basin. The withdrawal point has not been determined yet.

- Is the sustainability being considered at the source location? Mr. Rehring replied for this study, we are basing reliability on the availability of permits in the source basin, as defined in the 2012 Update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan.

- A gentleman commented that in his opinion the state Comprehensive Water Supply Plan is flawed because the supply they say is needed does not take into account the tourism aspect that takes place on many of the lakes in the area. He suggested maybe we should take a better look at the Comprehensive Water Plan. Mr. Rehring responded that community values scores for each portfolio could consider source basin issues, beyond compliance with the requirements of Oklahoma water law.

- Why not think of conservation as a source? Mr. Rehring stated we do. You can think of conservation or reuse as either reduces your potable demand or adds to your supply, it is the same equation. Absolutely, additional conservation is one of the existing supplies and expanding conservation moderately or significantly is a supply option that will be put in a portfolio.

- What if Texas beats us to southeast Oklahoma water supplies? Mr. Rehring responded that is still in Federal litigation and appeals at this time. However, to date, the courts have sided in Oklahoma's favor.

- What conservation measures are being considered? Mr. Rehring replied we are evaluating two levels of conservation. Scenario 1 includes leak detection and educational programs. Scenario 2 includes expanded leak detection and educational programs plus more aggressive conservation water rate structure and implementation of high efficiency plumbing standards that go beyond national standards. Conservation measures build on the 2011 plan adopted by Norman.

- Do we have total cost for the various options? Mr. Rehring explained they are working on costs as they move forward into the portfolios. We will put together estimates using guidelines but they will be based on assumptions of level of participation.

- Was the extension of the groundwater well field considered? Mr. Rehring said yes. It will be carried forward into Phase II of the portfolio development/evaluation.

Mr. Komiske thanked everyone for attending and said the presentation will be available on the website. There will be one or two more public meetings in the future, as the plan evaluations move forward. He reminded everyone to please sign the attendance list, if they had not already done so.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Item submitted for the record:
PowerPoint presentation entitled, 2060 Strategic Water Supply Plan Public Meeting #2, October 17, 2012